duction capacity of 180.20 lakh tonnes for 2000 AD.

(c) The information is being collected.

राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम में वेतन असमानता

1891. **श्रीमती कैलाशपति** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम के कर्मचारियों को समान कार्य के लिये समान वेतन नहीं दिया जाता है ;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में निगम के कर्मचारियों ने समय-समय पर असंतोष प्रकट किया है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो समान कार्य के लिये समान वेतन न दिये जाने के क्या कारण है और कर्मचारियों की मांगों को पूरा करने के लिये सरकार क्या उपचारी कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नितिश कुमार): (क) जी, नहीं। निगम में नियमित आधार पर काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को उनके अपने-अपने वेतन-मानों के अनुसार मजदूरी दी जाती है । इसी प्रकार, दैनिक/समेकित आधार पर काम कर रहे व्यक्तियों को संबंधित राज्य सरकारों अथवा अन्य अधिसूचित प्राधिकारियों द्वारा ऐसे कर्मचारियों की विभिन्न श्रेणियों के लिये समय-समय पर न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के अनुसार निर्धारित मजदूरी से कम नहीं दी जाती है।

(ख) दैनिक/समेकित आधार पर काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों ने समय-समय पर अपने को नियमित करने एवं मजदूरी बढ़ाने की मांग की है।

(ग) इस निगम की जनशक्ति इसके प्रचालन कार्यकलापों के लिये अपेक्षित जनशक्ति से अधिक है। 31 मार्च, 1990 को विभिन्न स्थानों पर दैनिक/समेकित आधार पर 632 व्यक्ति कार्य कर रहे थे । उन्हें अस्थायी तौर पर रखने का मुख्य कारण नियमित पदों का न होना है जिन पर उन्हें नियमित किया जा सके । राष्ट्रीय बीज निगम के लिये अपेक्षित कर्मचारियों की संख्या का मूल्यांकन राष्ट्रीय बीज परियोजना-3 की विश्व बैंक से सहायता प्राप्त स्कीम के तहत नियुक्त किये गये परामर्शदाता द्वारा किया जाएगा है। इस निगम को पहले ही लगातार हानि हो रही है और इसे देखते हुये इस समय मांगों को पूरा करना संभव नहीं हो सकता।

Import of edible oil.

1182. SHRI S K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported annually in the years from 1985-86 to 1988-89;

(b) whether there is any bearing of import of edible oil on the foreign exchange strain;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to offset this; and

(d) what steps are being taken to increase the indigenous production of oil seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The quantity of edible oil imported through STC during the years 1985-86 to 1988-89 is as under:—

Financial Year	Qty. Lakh MT
1985-86	10.80
1986-87	13.07
1987-88	19.67
1988-89	10.89

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to offset the strain of foreign exchange coming in the way of import of edible oil, to the extent possible, the Government is presently considering the proposal of export of milk powder lying surplus with NDDB against import of palmolein.

(d) The Government has already adopted a multi-pronged strategy to increase the production of edible oils which includes, besides others the following:—

(i) Implementation of projects like NODP and OPTP providing assistance to oil growing States for critical inputs like improved seeds, plant protection, irrigation and extension of technology;

(ii) increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin and rice bran etc.;

(iii) intensification of research efforts for increasing productivity of oilseeds;

(iv) better incentives to farmers through fixation of minimum support prices for edible oilseeds; and

(v) setting up of Technology Mission on Oilseeds production.

Increase in the Speed of Express Trains

1183. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to speed up the Express Trains i.e. (i) Madras-Quilon and Quilon-Madras Mails, (ii) Madras-Tirunelveli and Tirunelveli-Madras Express, (iii) Pearl City Express Madras to Tuticorin, and (iv) Madras to Madurai Pandyan Express;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to minimise accidents due to the un-manned gates; and

(c) whether Government have any programme to convert all the un-manned gates to manned ones in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some of the important steps being taken to prevent accidents at un-manned level crossing gates are as under;—

(1) Provision of whistle boards and rumble strips/speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of level crossings.

(2) Improving visibility at level crossings for road users and train drivers.

(3) Educative campaigns through public media including Doordarshan and Radio to educate road users on the precautions to be taken at level crossings.

(c) Manning of existing unmanned Level Crossings is undertaken by Railways only if sponsored by the State Government/Local Authority duly consenting to bear the cost thereof as per rules However, manning of such of the level crossings, which are considered hazardous on account of their having restricted visibility and/or high density of traffic is undertaken by Railways on their own at Railways' cost.

Encouragement for joint farming

1184. SHRI S.K T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to encourage small farmers to come into the fold of joint farming;

(b) if so, what are the incentives proposed to be given to the farmers into joint farming;

(c) the number of Co-operative Farming Societies in the country; and

(d) whether these societies are making any profits or in loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) According to the latest information brought out by NABARD as on 30th June, 1988, total number of co-operative farming societies was 8062.